THE
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NEWSLETTER

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INTERVIEW
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JC: Why have you recently departed WCW?

JR: My departure from WCW is a rather simple one. It is sort of a backlash from my time in the WWF. The only reason I left the WWF is that you're traveling on the road... I worked for the WWF for seven years, wrestling approximately 270 dates a year; puts quite a strain on a family life. My family was in need for me to be there and regardless of my career, my family is still number one because once this career's over, I still need my family. Therefore, that's the reason I left the WWF. I went to work for WCW and, unfortunately, at the time I went to work, they had hired a new vice-president, and I've never seen eye to eye with this man. But, my departure from there was a rather simple one also. I was having trouble with alcohol and drug addiction. Regardless of what people think about human beings, when you travel, when you expose yourself to everything that every professional athlete is exposed to, not just wrestlers, but basketball players, football players, anybody that's in the mainstream of life, or just take a look next door to your house because it's probably happening there too. What I was dealing with was; do I want to continue this way or do I want to do something about it. And I was at a point in my life that I wanted to do something about it, change. Change is not easy, but that's what I'm doing, I'm changing. Unfortunately when I informed WCW about my plans to go into a rehab; I went in under my own power, I went in under my own suggestion, nobody had required me to come here, nobody suggested that I come here. In fact, if there was any suggestion, it was that I not come here. Which is ludicrous, it's ridiculous. You think about it, if somebody's sick with cancer, what do they do? They go get it taken care of. Drug and alcohol addiction, this is a disease. It's not something people choose to do, it's a disease. And once a disease takes over a person's body, it's not a question of; do I want to drink or do I want to do drugs, it's a question of survival. The drug and alcohol does take over the person's body and it runs their life. The only thing that bothers me is the ignorance of people out there, I don't want to mention any names, but there are several publications, they come out and try to come after you like you're some bad person or some dog off the street. What the people at WCW and people around the world need to realize is that the Jake "The Snake" Roberts they've seen over the past several years is one that was addicted to alcohol and some drugs. When I'm clean and sober, I'm a much better athlete, much stronger, much clearer, much sharper. It's a choice you make, do you want to shoot a rusty gun and take a chance of it blowing up in your face or do you want a brand new rifle, and that's what I'm looking at.

JC: How do you think all your problems with drugs and alcohol started, and getting addicted to them?

JR: Well, unfortunately, alcohol addiction ran in my family. My grandfather was an alcoholic, my father had problems with some addictions. Addiction in alcoholism is passed down from generation to generation. Unfortunately, people will tell you that you can be anything that you want to be in life. Well, basically, that's true, but the problem is when you're born, you turn around and look and see what mom and dad are doing, and that's where you learn. And so chances are if you see somebody at home drinking when you're a kid, you pretty much tell yourself that that's okay, it's a good thing to do, that is what I'm expected to do. And people that are really smart realize that it not only goes from that point, but if you're raised a certain way, chances are you're going to raise your children the same way. Regardless of whether you're talking about drinking or you're talking spanking, or you're talking about don't eat broccoli, don't trust black men, you know, it goes all up and down. We are what we are shown to be. The apple does not fall far from the tree. If you see an apple on the ground, you're not going to be underneath a pinetree, it's an appletree, and that's the same way with human beings. My alcohol and drug addiction escalated, it's a progressive disease, it does not get better, it gets worse. As your tolerance builds, you continue to drink and use and that at some point, your system breaks down, that's when you become a true alcoholic. And you become unable to cope with life's problems, you become a slave to the drug or to the alcohol.

It's not the WWF's fault, it's not WCW's fault, it's not even my fault, it's just a way of life. If you go out there and want to point fingers and say, "Oh God man, what a loser," they'd better start checking their closets because alcoholism is the number three killer in this world today, and that is scary. So let the ignorant people point their fingers, but at least I'm honest enough to do something about it.

JC: How have these problems effected your family and friends?

JR: Family definitely suffers anytime there is an alcoholic in the home because obviously, you don't do the things that you should be doing and you don't spend the quality time that you could be if you were sober. Your children suffer and your wife definitely suffers. Watching somebody drink is not a pleasant thing, especially when they're an alcoholic, because they don't stop with one drink or two drinks, they stop when they're drunk and pass out. It's not pretty and they're a lot of scars. But the only way that you can heal is to stop, and that's what I've done. I mean I've shamed myself enough in front of my family, in front of my friends, to the point that I'd had enough. Once I reached that point, it was me turning myself over to find a higher power, not necessarily God, but to find something in my life that I could believe in that is better and bigger and stronger than myself, because willpower will not defeat alcoholism. If I had two more inches of willpower, I'd be a dead man. Think about it, lots of times you are out there looking at a problem and you get upset and angry, angry does not cure any problem. Especially for me, because a lot of times the problems that I couldn't put my hands on, I would stuff them inside of me. That's a dangerous situation because sooner or later the volcano's gonna blow.

JC: How long have you been going through these addictions?

JR: I've been going through this addiction for seventeen years, it's a progressive disease. What's amazing is that I held on for seventeen years.

JC: How would it effect you, being on the road a lot? Having to wake up every morning and go from city to city.

JR: Sometimes I suffered for days. It's hard to wake up the next morning, it's hard to work the next day, it's hard to go to the gym.

JC: A lot of the people that I speak to have commented that they have seen a decrease in your ringwork and maybe, your physical abilities. How much of an effect do you think your problems have had on that subject?

JR: I'm sure they had some effect, but the people also have to remember that after seventeen years of banging your head around that ring and after a couple of neck procedures, where they removed a disc out of my neck; that's what hurt me the most, I think. Having that disc removed from my neck, it limits my mobility and it also made certain things impossible for me to do. If people will look at common sense, though, you see any professional athlete come out of college and they hit the scene and they're blazing, but after seventeen years, they've lost a step or two. But where you lose a step or two, you also learn after years of experience how to get around the same problem by using your head instead of your body (his awesome interviews and gimmick). There's no doubt in my mind that when I do come back to wrestling, I will be physically fit. I will be healthier than I've been probably in the last seven or eight years. One thing though, I don't have to be a wrestler. I can do other things. My livelihood doesn't depend on wrestling. It's something that I enjoy, but right now I'm looking at a lot of other things to do.

JC: What are some other things that you are looking at?

JR: Well, acting. This character has been nurtured for a long time. There's only one person out there, other than myself, with the same box office ability, and that's Hogan. If I walk through an airport with ninety-nine other wrestlers, people are going to notice me. They'll pick me out, just because there's something about "The Snake" that makes them wonder.

JC: Through your problems that you've gone through, how were you feeling about yourself as a person?

JR: I hated myself for a long time. Anytime you hurt a family member or your friends or you feel like you're not measuring up to what you could be and what you want to be, sure you're going to have a lot of loss of self-esteem, and you're going to dislike yourself, you could even become suicidal. I think we all have, everybody in this world has thought about killing themselves at one time or another, just how serious you get with that is up to you. The only way I look at that was; if I was to do that to myself, there'd be a lot of people out there happy, and I just don't want to make that many people happy! (Joke)

JC: How tough was it going through those problems with being on the road all the time, away from family, friends, didn't it make it harder, I guess, being lonely?

JR: Yeah, professional wrestlers are always lonely. If you have any type of a family and all, you get very lonely, you miss your children, you miss your wife. You miss a lot of things, you miss your privacy.

JC: What are some of the other things that added to your problems, or even caused them?

JR: There's a lot of factors. Whether it was traveling, whether it was anger with promotion, or there was problems at home with my family, with my wife. An alcoholic will drink for any reason, whether he's happy or he's sad. I'd celebrate and drink, if I'd get angry, I would drink. For an alcoholic, there is no middle line, either he's happy or he's not. Somewhere down the line, that middle of the road type attitude that most people have, disappears for the alcoholic. Either he's going to be very excited or he's going to be very depressed. And either one of those places is not safe.

JC: I guess most of the time when you're on the road, after the match, you'd go back to the hotel, and maybe go to the

bar. Was the bar a fun time for you or what was it for you?

JR: No, it was better than being in a (hotel) room looking at the ceiling and four walls, that's all. Most of the time, the bars were a pain in the ass. You've got people that are not letting me have my privacy, people that annoy you. But then, occasionally you run into nice people. I'm not saying that all people annoyed me, there are the people that come up to you and handle themselves in a polite, correct manner and treat you like a man. There's also a lot of assholes out there that just want to get next to you for what ever they can get for themselves. It's an (ego) trip for them, it's a male or a female, there's a lot of women out there that would do anything for you, but I'm just not into that. I just want to be alone sometimes, it's just tough. But you don't want to sit in the room because after a while, it gets to be pretty old. It's hard to be happy with yourself when you don't feel like you're doing the right thing.

JC: Did the fight you were involved in down in Florida have anything to do with your problems?

JR: That was not my fault, I was setup. Like I said, it's an unfortunate thing when you have money, when you have the stardom attached to you, then you are a walking lawsuit. Everybody wants something for nothing. Unfortunately this country has become sue happy. And it's like if you've got money and any type of notoriety, you're guilty because they would much rather point the finger at somebody successful than somebody who's flat on their ass.

JC: We've talked about some very unhappy things you've gone through, but what were the happiest times in this business?

JR: The happiest times were always when I was performing, I like performing. I liked working with WWF. There are always going to be things wrong, no matter where you go, but I enjoyed that time.

JC: What were your unhappiest times in this business?

JR: When I was traveling, and dealing with Bill Watts.

JC: You spent a lot of time with him in the early '80s down in Mid-South. Did you do any booking for him?

JR: Well, he's always one that wants to take somebody else's shit. He stole ideas, he didn't pay for them, but he stole them. You've got people out there that are innovators and you have people that are imitators, and I'm an innovator. I could do this business for the next hundred years because my mind never stops working. You've got a lot of people out there that have to watch somebody else do something before they can do it, but I'm the type of guy that goes out and invents something new. If I was to draw up a list of the things that I've started in this business that have been copied, it's a real trip. I used to get angry and say, what are you doing, copying my shit, that's not right. Then I started thinking, that's a compliment. It's also fun whenever I can walk up to that person and say, "Go ahead and use it, because I'll just think of something new, you can't." I mean look at how many have tried to do the DDT.

JC: But that time down in Mid-South in the early 80s with Bill Watts, what kind of experience was that for you?

JR: It was a learning experience, I learned a lot. I really perfected a lot of my wrestling skills there. Bill Watts has done some good things for this business, don't get me wrong, but we've got a big disagreement right now and I was treated very unfairly. The other way I look at it is I'm not going to make myself miserable thinking about what somebody has done to me, because in time, all that stuff comes back around. What goes around, comes around, and whether he knows it or not, somewhere down the line, he'll have to pay the price for the things he's done to everyone, and unfortunately, he can't afford that.

JC: Did you gain some insight towards the business from him while you were down there, though?

JR: No, no.

JC: Would you say that he gained some insight from you?

JR: I would think so. Bill Watts was great in the 60s and 70s, but this is the 90s, at least I know that, he doesn't, but I do. He needs to learn, he needs to go back to school. He'll have to sooner or later if he's to survive. Let's think about something here, if he was as brilliant as he would like to be, then what the hell happened to Mid-South. Case closed.

JC: Well, you worked with him ten years ago and then you were working for him recently. How would you say he's changed?

JR: He hasn't, he has not changed, he's that same person, and that's what's going to be hard for him to get through. Plain and simple, the only way I would ever go back to WCW is if Bill Watts was not there. I don't have to work for anybody. Two things a wrestler can always choose; his family and where he works. And any person that does not respect a man's health and a man wanting to get help for any health problem, than I don't need to work for him. If you don't respect my family enough to pay me the money that you owe me, than I don't need to work for you.

JC: Would you say that you handled the situation properly with him (Bill Watts). I guess, of course, you wouldn't be able to make those shows when...

JR: If a man is shot in the head, does he need to go to his employer and say, "Hey, I need a month off to get this bullet out." F****** ignorance. That's ignorance. I did not pick the day to get sick, I did not pick the time to get sick. If he can go to sleep at night knowing that he's wasted a great piece of talent, if he can go to sleep at night knowing that he has stolen money from someone, than that's good for him (sarcastically). It shows what kind of man he is, though.

JC: He went on TV and announced that you had left WCW because

of personal problems and that he supported you in your decision...

JR: "Personal problems and I'm supporting him." What kind of support is firing someone and then taking their money.

JC: How did he take your money, though?

JR: There's money that WCW owed me from shows. And I was informed that he would fine me $1,000 (his nightly pay for work) daily, until my money was gone. What a nice man. I don't feel like it's unfair to be fired, don't get me wrong. The bottom line for me is that it's his right to fire me anytime he wants, but to take money that is already owed to me, is not. He says I breached a contract by not showing. Well, again, if a person has a bullethole in his head, how can he show up? If you will check the laws, there was a law passed in September that says that alcoholism and drug addiction is a disease. No different than cancer, no different than heart. It's serious. Would you rather have me driving a car drinking a twelve pack or case of beer? Do you want somebody out there on the road like that? Hell no. And that's why I took myself out. I did not feel like I was good for myself, good for my family, or good for this business because I was not handling myself properly. If I had got in the ring and wrestled drunk or high on some type of drug and I would have crippled myself and broke my neck or killed someone or kill myself, what does that prove. It proves I'm pretty stupid.

JC: Has that ever happened before or an incident like that?

JR: No, no. Fortunately, I was always straight when I was in the ring. Maybe hungover, but straight. I usually saved my drinking and problems till afterwards.

JC: How often do you see these problems in this business? Do you think the business has a problem with it?

JR: There are drug problems all over the world. I think everybody has a problem with it. Not just this business, but it's all over. Let's talk about society; has there been any majors doing drugs or drinking. How about our new president, did he ever smoke marijuana? Oh, but he didn't inhale it! Okay, well what a waste that was. This business is no worse than any other business in the world today. There's going to be some people that do and some people that don't, and it's going to be like that. Hopefully, children are being educated better towards drugs. And thank God that it's become the uncool thing to do, to do drugs. That may have been part of the thing that helped me decide to pull the switch on myself. I grew up in the 70s when drugs and alcohol were cool. I was part of the late 60s generation, free love, drugs, I mean that was it, you were happening. My problem was that I never changed. Now in the 90s, thank God almighty, they're saying, "Hey man, it's not cool to do this shit anymore." So now maybe the kids will get a better shot at it today. They're educating them in school, they're telling them that it's not good for you, and it's not healthy, it's not the thing to do. Unfortunately, I grew up at a time when it was the exact opposite and boy, I ate it up.

The preceding interview with Jake "The Snake" Roberts (Aurelian Smith Jr.) was conducted on 12/2 by the editor, John Clark, via telephone from the halfway house that he is currently staying at in Atlanta, Georgia. Roberts had entered himself into the Betty Ford rehab center on 11/3 and then was transferred two weeks ago into a halfway house. Part II of this interview with Jake Roberts will be printed in the next issue where he discusses many aspects of the wrestling business and the effects it has had on his personal life.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Ray Stevens will now be working very closely with bookers Pat Patterson and J.J. Dillon...The Genius (Lanny Poffo) is gone and will be working with his father Angelo Poffo at a training gym near their home in Tampa, Florida, and will also be involved in Angelo's promotional efforts in England... Vince will also be letting go of several other employees in the very near future because of the company's losses. The WBF lost several million dollars before it filed for bankruptcy. ICO PRO was developed by Vince to be a swift way to cloud the public's thought of steroids being in professional wrestling and is also another gimmick that should make him money, and that's what it's all about...Kamala will be making his turn shortly (Kimchee & Whippleman leaving him alone at Survivor, arguments at house shows) and it's expected that, as a face, he'll be managed by The Reverend Slick, who'll presumably show Kamala the light...The Steiner Brothers will be entering in January and they were at the WWF offices in Stamford, CT on 11/18? for photo shots and interviews. They are still under contract with WCW until after the first of the year. They will debut with Titan at the TV tapings on 1/4 and 1/5 in Beaumont and San Antonio, TX. They start up on the road full-time the next day in Austin, TX and will be working with Double Trouble at the house shows for most of January... Vince McMahon has been desperately trying to get Hulk Hogan to come back. He tried to get Hulk for Survivor Series, after Warrior left, but Hulk turned him down. Hogan has some TV and movie deals right now and doesn't really want to go back and work for Vince. Hulk has told several people that he is very upset about the way Vince handled the scandal situation, making Hulk look like the bad guy and bringing everybody else down with him. Hulk now weighs about 240 pounds and doesn't have the same intensity towards working out. And he injured his shoulder and is still seeing a chiropractor for it. Showing WrestleMania video ads with a major focus on Hulk at this point could be considered premature...Earthquake John Tenta's last day will be the 1/24 Royal Rumble. He will only be working a handful of dates for the WWF between now and then and will work the remaining dates in Japan for Tenryu's sagging WAR promotion. Quake hopes to have a future in Japan so he won't have to work as much as he would have to if he was working in the states, and the money is better in Japan. He will have several matches upcoming with Yokozuna, which is ironic because Tenta "was" a legit sumo wrestler, something Yokozuna (Kokina) can't boast. Typhoon's future with the company is uncertain, especially with the departure of Quake. Typhoon might be taking some time off soon for injuries, and basically for being fatigued...The WWF's Christmas single,

"SLAM JAM" was released 11/30 in England. It features songs (actually, it's about five minutes long and the wrestlers do not sing, they just make regular in-character comments) by Bret Hart, Undertaker, Davey Boy Smith, and Randy Savage... Lex Luger is set to come in March 1, which is when his contractual obligations with WCW expires...El Gigante signed a contract a couple months ago and will enter in January, and will appear at the Royal Rumble, with a new name. Vince would like to push him as another Andre the Giant type character... Davey Boy Smith is headed to either All Japan or New Japan, (most likely All with Baba) depending on where he can get a better deal...The Ultimate Warrior is weighing his options right now of what he'll be doing in the future, which include wrestling (in Japan) or pursuing a career in Hollywood...They are currently deciding on a new announcer to replace Hennig on WWF Superstars...Roddy Piper has been frequently appearing on the major TV stations in England throughout November to promote his new single that was released over there, "I'm Your Man..." The WWF is returning to England on 2/2 to 2/4 with shows respectively in Manchester, (G-Mex), New Castle (Whitley Bay Ice Rink), and London (Earls Court-2?? These are much smaller venues than they usually go into and that's because the larger venues have booked WCW events when they tour England in in March. The WWF does the same thing in this country, they want an exclusive agreement with the arenas. The WWF is "boycotting" these arenas amidst a big promotional war that is going on over in England, which is the new big money market for the WWF and WCW. WWF has also booked dates in Germany: 2/5 in Bayreuth, 2/6 in Mannheim, 2/7 in Hamburg, 2/8 in Berlin, 2/9 in Aschaffenburg, and 2/10 in Dortmund. The next overseas tour after this one will be in April after WrestleMania...Most of the Undertaker-Nailz matches being booked for house shows in January are being billed as "Prison Yard Matches," whatever that is..."Slam and Jam" is the name of a new WWF TV show that will air on Saturdays from 10am to 11am on the USA Network starting on 1/9...Merchandising sales have dropped immensely (the profit is just about half of what it once was) and that is where Titan makes most of their money. Top sellers are Undertaker, Hogan (still), and Bret Hart's merchandise sales are picking up quickly, mainly due to the fact that he just became world champion and he is the focus of the company now. Reports say that Ultimate Warrior's merchandise wasn't selling anywhere near as well as it was before he left for the first time last year...The main event for the 1/24 Royal Rumble being held in Sacramento, CA will be Bret Hart vs Razor Ramon for the WWF title and the event will also feature a 30-man Royal Rumble and other matches.

TV tapings were held in Erie, PA (Challenge) and Dayton, OH (Superstars) on 11/23 and 11/24. No major angles took place and there were no new faces either night. Highlights from Erie include; Bam Bam Bigelow beat Tito Santana, Randy Savage beat Terry Taylor -great, Nailz beat Big Bossman in a steel cage match, Shawn Michaels pinned Marty Jannetty in their first match against each other (correspondent said it was one of the best matches he's seen this year), Undertaker beat Razor Ramon when Ramon walked out, Tatanka wrestled Ric Flair to a double-DQ/double-CO, Bret Hart beat Papa Shango. Dayton highlights include; a great live interview with Bret Hart in which Flair and Ramon came out and attacked Hart until Hennig made the save, Marty Jannetty beat Papa Shango by DQ, Earthquake beat Repo Man, Nailz beat Bossman in a cage, Max Moon & High Energy beat Genius & Beverly Brothers, and Hart pinned Flair in a great title match to end the night of tapings.

WWF Survivor Series at the Richfield Coliseum in Richfield OH on 11/25 Thanksgiving with 17,000: Headshrinkers beat High Energy when Fatu pinned Owen Hart after a splash off the top rope at 7:40. Big Bossman beat Nailz in 5:45. Tatanka pinned Rick Martel in 11:06. Randy Savage & Mr. Perfect beat Razor Ramon & Ric Flair by DQ in 16:27. Yokozuna beat Virgil in a 3:42 squash. Nasty Boys survived the Beverly Brothers & Money Inc vs Natural Disasters & Nasty Boys match in 16:03. Undertaker pinned Kamala in 5:31 after hitting Kamala with the urn and Kamala was then stuffed into the coffin. Bret Hart beat Shawn Michaels with the sharpshooter at 26:40. **Notes:** During the Martel-Tatanka match, Doink the Clown came out and did his gig. The actual wrestling match came as an expense to get over the clown gimmick, and that's not going back to wrestling. The Savage & Perfect-Flair & Ramon match really put over Curt Hennig. It appears as though he is going to get a major push and could be the future of the WWF. Kamala's facial expressions during his "match" with The Undertaker were priceless. "Santa" came out after Bret Hart's win over Shawn Michaels and it magically starting snowing from the top of the arena; the WWF product is definitely still geared toward a younger audience. From 68 calls to the Flyer Hotline, the main grades for the show were not the extremes (very few As or Fs), they were mainly in the middle (B, C, D), with the overall average grade from those 68 calls coming to a C+/B-.

WWF at the Providence Civic Center in Providence, RI on 11/27 with 3,000: Lance Cassidy beat Brooklyn Brawler. Headshrinkers beat Natural Disasters when Fatu pinned Earthquake after a double-headbutt. Crush beat Repo Man. Shawn Michaels pinned Marty Jannetty in 15:04 with a reverse small package in the best match of the night. Bob Backlund beat Rick Martel with a small package in 14:01. Undertaker beat Razor Ramon by countout when Razor walked out. Big Bossman (sub for Bulldog) pinned Kamala and after the match, they teased the upcoming turn of Kamala as Kimchee slapped him and then they & Harvey Whippleman argued, with it ending when Kamala chased Kimchee back to the dressing room.

WWF at Madison Square Garden in New York, NY on 11/28 with 8,000: Cassidy beat Brawler. Crush beat Repo. Backlund (got biggest pop of the night) beat Martel. Nasty Boys beat Money Inc by DQ when DiBiase threw Knobs off the top rope as he was attempting to splash IRS. Bossman beat Kamala with the same scenario taking place after the match. Max Moon beat Terry Taylor. Undertaker beat Nailz with the choke slam. The same results apply for the WWF at the New Haven Coliseum in New Haven, CT on the afternoon of 11/28 with 4,000.

WWF at the Market Square Arena in Indianapolis, IN on 11/29 with 3,000: Tatanka beat Papa Shango. Ramon beat Bossman. The Undertaker beat Nailz. Bret Hart pinned Ric Flair in a great 17 minute match with many near falls. Crush beat Repo. Shawn Michaels pinned Marty Jannetty in a great match that showed how well they work together. Headshrinkers beat Disasters.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Starrcade emanates from the Omni in Atlanta, GA on 12/28 and will feature a WCW Championship match with Ron Simmons vs

Rick Rude, Big Van Vader vs Sting in the finals for the King of Cable tourney, NWA Champion Masa Chono vs Great Muta, Dan Spivey & Van Hammer vs Cactus Jack & Johnny B. Badd and then three other Battle Bowl tag team matches. There will also be a Battle Bowl battle royal as well as other matches.

At Center Stage in Atlanta on 11/30 they taped two weeks of WCW Saturday Night. The following are highlights of the show that will air 12/5. Too Cold Scorpio worked a squash and then did an interview. The word is that his ringwork is great, but his interviews are poor. Tex Slashinger & Shanghai Pierce did an interview holding a paper bag bad-mouthing Gunn & Zenk. In an interview with Johnny B. Badd, Cactus Jack came out and they did a regular heel-face tag team interview. Badd & Brad Armstrong & Marcus Bagwell beat Scotty Flamingo & Dallas Page & Vinnie Vegas when Armstrong pinned DDP in a decent match. Rick Rude & Van Vader did an interview where Vader challenged Rude for a title match if Rude beats Simmons at Starrcade. In another underdog challenge match, Ricky Nelson beat George South. Dustin Rhodes beat Steve Austin by DQ when Windham ran in and the heels beat on Dustin's arm (in a cast) in a hard-core attack. Rude & Vader beat Sting & Ron Simmons when Rude pinned Simmons after the rude awakening. The show airing on 12/12 featured the following. Gunn & Zenk beat Slashinger & Pierce by DQ when the heels used the bullrope. Also during this show, Slashinger & Pierce announced that they now have a bounty on Erik Watts. Shane Douglas & Rick Steamboat beat Steve Austin & Bobby Eaton when Shane pinned Eaton after a belly to belly. Before a scheduled Windham-Rhodes match, when Rhodes didn't appear, Steamboat came out and challenged Windham to a match. They got in the ring, but both were holding chairs. As Windham picked up his chair over his head, Rhodes ran in (wearing clothes & cowboy hat) and grabbed the chair away from Windham and they brawled all over the place and then out of the studio, as the show ended.

Chris Benoit is definitely not coming in until early next year and may not come in after all. He apparently refused to accept the offered contract...Bobby Eaton will be joining Smoky Mountain after the first of the year, when his contract is up. Arn Anderson's future after his contract is up is uncertain right now. WWF, Smoky, or WCW's front offices are several possibilities...$50 is the going price for ringside tickets for Starrcade...Too Cold Scorpio pinned Steve Austin in Baltimore, MD on 11/25...The new announcing team for WCW Saturday Night will be Jim Ross & Larry Zbyszko...Too Cold Scorpio came in and Robby Walker went out as Walker quit and Watts saw a tape of Scorpio in Japan and decided to bring him in...Arn Anderson injured his knee but will be back before Christmas...Paul E. Dangerously, despite rumors, is staying with WCW and has an ironclad contract with WCW that doesn't expire until January of 1994...Speculation from close sources say that booker Dusty Rhodes will be gone when his contract expires on 1/18 and that Bill Watts isn't going anywhere, in spite of the circulating rumors about Jim Herd coming back to replace him...At the World Wide TV tapings in Gainesville, GA on 12/1, there were two fantastic matches that headlined the four hour squash fest. Barry Windham & Brian Pillman beat Dustin Rhodes & Brad Armstrong when Pillman pinned Armstrong after Windham DDT'ed Armstrong. There was also a great brawl after the match revolving around the heat between Dustin and Barry. In the other great match on the card, Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas beat Van Vader & Rick Rude by DQ when Vader threw Douglas over the top rope. In a match on that card that was described as dreadfully awful, Simmons beat Tony Atlas... WCW is touring the United Kingdom from 3/11 to 3/17. They will appear in London, England (Wembley Arena) on 3/11; Birmingham, England (NEC Arena) on 3/12; Manchester, England (G-Mex) on 3/13; Aberdeen (Conference Centre) on 3/14; Belfast, Ireland (King's Hall) on 3/16; Dublin, Ireland (The Point) on 3/17.

WCW at the Omni in Atlanta, GA on 11/26 with 4,500: Johnny Gunn & Tom Zenk battled Tex Slashinger & Shanghai Pierce to a ten minute time limit draw. Flying Scorpio beat Dallas Page with the triple flip move off the top rope. Johnny B. Badd beat Scotty Flamingo. Erik Watts (booed) beat Bobby Eaton (cheered) with the STF in about 5:00. Brian Pillman beat Marcus Bagwell. Steve Austin beat Brad Armstrong. Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas beat Tony Atlas & Barbarian when Rick pinned Atlas. In a Thunderdome cage match, Dustin Rhodes & Van Hammer & Sting & Ron Simmons beat Big Van Vader & Rick Rude & Cactus Jack & Barry Windham when Sting pinned Cactus.

THE INDEPENDENT SCENE

John Arezzi and Dave Meltzer are writing a book about the wrestling business that will published sometime next year.

UWS at the Elks Club in Queens, NY on 11/20 with 400: Timmy Cherrowq beat Danny Styles. S.D. Jones beat The Metal Maniac. Haiti Kid beat Butch Cassidy. Chris Michaels beat Kodiac Bear. Demolition (Ax & Blast) beat Boss Hog Calhoun & Hercules. In a best of three falls match, Jimmy Snuka beat Don Muroco after pinning him in the first fall and winning the second fall by DQ when Hercules interfered. They return there on 12/27 with Greg Valentine-Ax and Snuka & Cherrowq-Muroco & Hercules.

WWWA in Scranton, PA on 11/22 with 200: Steve Savage & Jim the Messenger beat Rockin Rebel & Tommy Dreamer. Heidi Lee Morgan beat Angel of Death. IC Champion Davey Boy Smith beat Cheetah Kid in a great match. Jim Neidhart beat Crash.

IWCCW at the legendary Hamburg Fieldhouse in Hamburg, PA on 11/28 with 500: SS Powerhouse beat Jimmy Deo to win the IWCCW Independent title. Little Louie beat Mighty Doom. Cousin Luke beat Iron Sheik by DQ. Jumping Joe Savoldi wrestled Deo for about five minutes when Sheik ran in and they double-teamed Savoldi until Luke made the save. They return to the Hamburg Fieldhouse on 12/27 with Sheik & Deo vs Savoldi & Luke and Tito Santana vs Greg Valentine.

WWA at the Clementon Coliseum in Clementon, NJ on 11/28 with 280: Ray Odyssey beat Chris Candito to win the Junior title. The Spider & Boy Gone Bad (managed by Amy Lee) beat Tank & Samurai Warrior. Lightning Kid pinned Bill Wilcox and Kid suffered a brain contusion after banging the back of his head on the concrete floor outside the ring after a bump. He was rushed to a hospital after the match, was released within days, and seems to be okay now. They return to Clementon on 1/16 with Chris Candito vs Lightning Kid.

ECW at the Kensington Youth Center in Philly on 11/28 with 400 at a card that was taped as a pilot for Sports Channel: Rockin Rebel beat Larry Winters. Jimmy Snuka pinned JT Smith. Sandman beat Kodiak Bear. Johnny Hotbody beat Jimmy Jannetty. Max Thrasher beat Smith. Super Destroyers wrestled Jannetty &

Winters to a time limit draw. Sandman wrestled Rockin Rebel to a double-countout. Glen Osbourne beat Snuka by DQ. Tony Stetson beat Hotbody in one of their regular great brawls.

FLYER FAN FARE

The official copy of the WWA 11/14 Wayne, NJ show with Sabu vs Chris Candito and Terry Funk vs Eddie Gilbert in that five star Texas death match is now available. Simply send $20 plus $3.00 for S&H to PO Box 283, Wallingford, PA 19086 and please make all payments (checks, money orders, cash) payable to Excalibur Promotions. Mail in now because copies are limited.

If you would like an audio tape copy of Roddy Piper's new hit single, "I'm Your Man," that was only released over in England, simply send $5 to the Flyer address below.

For a copy of the December/January WWF calendar of events, simply send two stamps to the Flyer address below.

Georgiann Makropoulos of 23-44 30th Drive, Astoria, NY 11102 publishes the lengthy monthly Wrestling Chatterbox newsletter for $2.50 ($4.00 overseas) per issue. She has a tremendous amount of dedication towards her work and it shows in her product, which she puts endless time and effort into.

Brett Whalen of 4253 North Gale Rd, Davison, MI 48423 as of 1/17 will publish the bi-weekly Locker Room News for $1.50.

Millie Camacho of 1236 Burke Ave. #7F, Bronx, NY 10469 has a list of tapes and other merchandise available for a SASE.

Rob Feinstein of 865 Green Ridge Circle, Langhorne, PA 19053 has over 500 wrestling tapes in his diverse collection. He carries all promotions from the 70s to the 90s and also has tremendous tape features on Jushin Liger and Ric Flair.

Outside Interference is a very good editorial newsletter published by Dave Prazak of 2278 Hidden Creek Court, Lisle, IL 60532 that is available at $6 for 4 issues.

The finest source for listings of wrestling merchandise and memorabilia is Mat Marketplace, a newsletter published by Sheldon Goldberg at PO Box 2371, Jamaica Plain, MA 02131. Each bi-monthly issue is $2.50.

The Wrestling Observer Newsletter is the #1 newsletter on the market today. Send $6 for four issues to Dave Meltzer at PO Box 1228, Campbell, CA 95009 and it's well worth it.

The Wrestling Flyer has 3 1/2 by 5 color photos available of just about any wrestling superstar. Each photo is only $2.00, which includes postage & handling. There are also 8 by 10 color photos available of your favorites. Each photo is is only $7, which includes postage & handling. We have a wide range of photos such as in-ring shots, posed shots, and shots of wrestlers outside of the ring, in the hotels, etc. Orders outside the US are $3.50 for 3 1/2 by 5 photos and $8 for the 8 by 10 photos.

Paul Adamovic of PO Box 303, Irvington, NY 10533 publishes the weekly Wrestling World Examiner at $5 for four issues. He does a fine job with his sheet and emphasizes the indies.

To stay informed with all the happenings in wrestling, call The Cookson Wrestling Connection at 1-900-446-1064.

Dave Wright of 87 Duddell Road, Smallthorne, Stoke-On-Trent, Staffs, ST6 1LS England publishes the Arena Report Newsletter that is available to US residents for $3 in cash.

Joe Gabriel at PO Box 1268, Germantown, MD 20874 publishes Dr. James J. Havok's Pro Wrestling Update which is available at $2 an issue or $12 for 8 issues.

EDITOR: I hope all of you had a nice Thanksgiving and I hope your Christmas holiday is an enjoyable one for you. I thank all of you who support me in my efforts by subscribing and I would like some feedback from all of you on what you like about this newsletter and what you dislike about it. I hope that all of you can send me your criticisms because it will help make this newsletter better. Also, this issue doesn't come with a color photo to make up for the expense of next issue's special holiday photo special. Once again, I hope you will drop me a few lines to let me know where you want to see changes and where you don't want to see changes in this newsletter. Thank you very much in advance for your valuable time and thoughts in regards to this matter.

WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES

Each issue comes with news from WWF-WCW-Indies, results, a great color photo, plus interviews with:

Issue #4- June 6: Jerry Lawler
Issue #5- June 20: Paul Roma and Johnny B. Badd
Issue #6- July 4: Iron Sheik and Jimmy Snuka
Issue #7- July 18: Bruno Sammartino -Part I
Issue #8- Aug 1: Kerry Von Erich
Issue #9- Aug 15: Bruno Sammartino -Part II
Issue #10- Aug 29: Terry Taylor -Part I
Issue #11-Sept 12: Hawk and Terry Taylor -Part II
Issue #12-Sept 26: Marty Jannetty -Part I
Issue #13- Oct 10: Marty Jannetty -Part II
Issue #14- Oct 24: Road Warrior Animal
Issue #15- Nov 7: Buddy Landell
Issue #16- Nov 21: Davey Boy Smith and Paul Ellering

Each back issue is $2 and they can be ordered by sending the proper payment to PO BOX 283, WALLINGFORD, PA 19086

In an effort to improve the quality of this newsletter, we would appreciate it if you could phone in a report of any live shows you attend within a day after the event is held to our hotline, (215) 566-6590. And after you view any major event (PPVs, cable specials, etc), it would be appreciated if you would phone in your rating for the whole show: A (best) to F (worst) within a day after the event takes place. We would very much appreciate your participation in these two important activities.

The Wrestling Flyer Newsletter is a bi-weekly publication available by subscription for $1.50 ($2.50 for orders outside of U.S.) per issue. Each issue is eight pages full of fascinating interviews, fresh inside news, articles, results, and a great color photo accompanies each issue.

The number after your name on the address label tells you how many issues are left on your current subscription. If you have a (0) after your name, this is your last issue.

Send all subscription orders, letters to the editor (to be printed in the Flyer Fan Fare section), merchandise orders, and all other inquiries to: THE WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER, PO BOX 283, WALLINGFORD, PA 19086. Please make all payments payable to the editor, John Clark. THANK YOU.

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